as the "soup" inside began to exude. My wife took the pupa indoors, and while wiping it dry with a piece of cotton wool noted that the shell was definitely punctured. She showed me the pupa when I returned home, and as the tail end began to wriggle, I kept it in my pupae box on peat. Recently the moth hatched, turning out to be *Phlogophora meticulosa* L. (Angle-shades), but the specimen is *much* smaller than a typical example. Could this small size be attributed to the puncturing of the shell and loss of some of the contents? I have always found that a punctured pupa was a dead pupa. — DENNIS DEY, 9 Monmouth Close, Rainham, Gillingham, Kent ME8 7BQ. [Have any of our readers had a similar experience? — Editor.]

THE HUMMINGBIRD HAWKMOTH: MACROGLOSSUM STELLATARUM L. IN SOUTH DEVON. — On 13th June, 1980, a single specimen was observed feeding at valerian at the north end of Slapton Sands. Weather warm, sunny, after gale and rain the night before. — H. L. O'HEFFERNAN, c/o 15 Green Park Way, Chillington, Kingsbridge TQ7 2HY, S. Devon.

THE HUMMINGBIRD HAWKMOTH: MACROGLOSSUM STELLATARUM L. IN DERBYSHIRE. — A resident in Shelton Lock, near Derby, captured a specimen of this moth which was flying over Carnation blooms during the sunny afternoon of 7th June, 1980. I kept the moth in a cage for several days in order to see if it would lay any eggs but it died after five days without doing so. I thought that this report from the Midlands would be of interest especially as we had a very warm April and May, thus encouraging an early arrival of migrant insects. — BRUCE S. BURNS, 20 Kedleston Close, Allestree, Derby DE3 2RA.

THE HUMMINGBIRD HAWKMOTH: MACROGLOSSUM STELLATARUM L. IN SCOTLAND. — On the 6th June, 1980 at about 3 p.m. I sighted a small moth flying at speed in a northerly direction approximately 200 yards from the Low Light on the Isle of May, nr. Crail, Fyfe. Fortunately it settled on a rock and on closer examination I identified it as a Humming-bird Hawkmoth. It was duly entered in the Observatory Migration log and I was later informed by the warden (Mr. P. Lack) that it was the first record for this species on the Isle since 1899. — ALAN F. JOHNSTON, Art Gallery and Museum, Kelvingrove, Glasgow.

SOME OBSERVATIONS ON THE BRIMSTONE BUTTERFLY: GONEPTERYX RHAMNI L. — Hanging from the underside of a leaf is hardly the most advantageous place for a butterfly to absorb heat from the sun. This however is a drawback to the otherwise highly efficient method *Gonepteryx rhamni* L. has evolved to hide from predators while at rest. I would suggest that *G. rhamni* has overcome this problem by being able to vibrate its wings in a manner similar to that used by some of the night flying moths, and thus raise its body temperature sufficiently to enable it to take flight.

I have witnessed preflight wing vibrating on two occasions